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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

A Problem in Economics

Far too little publicity has been given to a resolution of the Association of Canadian Clubs, adopted at that organization's recent conference in Winnipeg. The resolution, while commending the Government for work done under Colombo Plan aid for under-developed countries, urges that steps be taken to provide "reading material and other educational media of a nature calculated to create an interest in and understanding of Canada and Canadian institutions."

The purpose of the resolution is to make clear that in the view of the Association of Canadian Clubs, funds spent on so-called "technical assistance" are a waste of money unless governments and people alike in the under-developed countries understand and adopt those standards of economic conduct upon which the high living standards of the donor countries rest. The acquisition of technical knowledge and skills without a full appreciation of the function of savings and investment can result only in futility and frustration.

The difficulty which the Association of Canadian Clubs resolution recognizes is expressed in a recent issue of The Economist. In under-developed countries, The Economist points out, "the very habit of saving has different ends. Hoarding and display, rather than ultimate production, is still a major preoccupation. Moreover, there is an absence of the machinery of investment such as exists in the West."

Technical assistance, in such circumstances, so far as the under-developed countries are concerned, looks very much like a case of putting the cart before the horse.

Calendar Reform

This month the subject of The World Calendar is being taken up by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations at the request of the Government of India. The June number of Journal of Calendar Reform devotes its entire space to a most valuable survey of the development of calendars through the ages. In fifty pages and fifteen chapters it recalls that ancient Babylonians, Egyptians, Julius Caesar and Pope Gregory XIII were all pioneers in devising a better time system.

Primitive man knew only days, moons and seasons. In 4236 B.C. Egypt accepted the sun as the central influence in time measurement, adopting a 12-month year of 360 days and five "extras" which, by the way is also the origin of our division of the circle into 360 degrees. The young Israelite Joseph marvelled at the order, harmony and satisfaction of the Egyptian calendar. Egyptian astronomers urged the introduction of an extra leap-year day but the innovation had to wait for the authority of Julius Caesar for adoption.

The seven-day week was substituted for the Roman Nones, Ides and Calends by Constantine, who came to the imperial throne from Britain. Unfortunately there are 52 and one-seventh weeks in a normal year so that in all calendars based on that of Constantine the days of the week wander in relation to the monthly date. This is corrected in the World Calendar by the addition of a World's Day at the end of the year which does not bear the name of any week-day.

The calendar was made more accurate by Pope Gregory in 1582 by making the centuries leap years only when divisible by 400 rather than 4, an innovation which was not adopted in Britain and America until 1752. The old arrangement of months, however, was not changed. Quarter-years varied from 90 to 92 days in length and half-years were ridiculously unequal.

Calendar development in Israel and the Mohammedan world are gone into in considerable detail. An interesting sidelight on the special interest taken by India in reform is the statement by the late Mahatma Gandhi that at least fourteen different calendars are in use in that country, resulting in unbelievable confusion.

British Viewpoint

The problem of "co-existence" in a world of warring political ideologies is well summed up by the London Spectator. "Everybody," says The Spectator, "now knows that a treaty with a totalitarian state is valuable only if it is physically impossible for it to be violated. Therefore let us by all means have a settlement in Indo-

China—so long as the Chinese are prepared to sign one on terms that we can accept; and let it be guaranteed by as many Asian powers as Mr. Eden can wish. But do not let us feel that this will solve all problems or exonerate the Western Powers from the need to face their physical commitments in Asia. Whether there is peace or whether there is war in Indo-China, the West must be ready to face a new Chinese aggression, they must know where they are going to do it and what they are going to do with it.

"While it is hard to quarrel with Mr. Eden's patience and diplomacy at Geneva, since we do want a peace and we do need Asian goodwill, it is difficult not to be disturbed by the Foreign Secretary's smooth confidence in the healing properties of peace. Re-reading his speech to the House of Commons in the Foreign Affairs debate one can understand how Mr. Dulles came to feel that it was unequal to the occasion. Asia, and thence the western world, is threatened from Peking; the threat will remain until the West has built up in the East a military and persuasive force comparable to China.

"Yet at this point, Mr. Dulles's mind seems to go as blank as Mr. Eden's, if not blander. Where is this force to come from? Mr. Eden at least hopes to get his persuasive force from the Colombo Powers and is at least doggedly working in that direction. Mr. Dulles doubts whether there is time for this, but he does not say where the military force is, in fact, to come from. Even Mr. Eden has never suggested that there is much military force to come from the Colombo Powers. Yet Mr. Dulles knows, when he thinks about it, that it cannot come only from the atom bomb; he also knows that the United States has barely enough troops to meet its present commitments, let alone to assume the commitment of defending South East Asia.

"He knows, finally, that the present programme anticipates a decline in US forces over the next few years. Yet he has done nothing to set it in reverse. One of the first things to be done, before the West has turned the corner of this crisis, is for Britain and America to realize that the disappearance of France from Asia obliges them to gear up their own war machines. Until America is prepared to face this it cannot expect to regain the sure leadership of the Western world that it assumed so boldly in 1947."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The appointment of a nurse in charge of Provincial child and maternal health is a step towards dealing with an aspect of public health which has suffered relative neglect. Maternal and child mortality has not been reduced in proportion to the improvement shown in the life expectancy of other groups.

The purchase of a farm by Aneurin Bevan must have required a certain adjustment of the British socialist's principles, of which nationalization of the land is a cardinal point. The late George Bernard Shaw, however, had no scruples in such matters, making clear that political principles must give way to practical adjustment to the political and economic system in force.

A Montreal traffic authority has rightly observed that "it is just as much a crime for a pedestrian to cross the street against a red light as it is for an automobile." It is true that jay-walking holds more peril for the culprit than anyone else but the danger of others being injured in efforts to avoid him is by no means negligible.

Substantial sums have been spent in Ontario on the standardization of fire hose thread as part of the civil defence programme. Maritime fire chiefs meeting this week in Sydney will discuss possible extension of the plan to this part of the country. Its object is, of course, to make it possible for communities to send equipment to one another's assistance without encountering difficulties of differing hose threads.

Thomas Bruce, 7th Earl of Elgin and 11th Earl of Kincardine, was born this date 1766, a brother of the 6th earl. He was a soldier and diplomat and while envoy to the Porte gathered the famous collection known as the "Elgin Marbles." They are portions of the frieze of the Parthenon and other buildings, medals and inscriptions, containing specimens of all the variations of the Greek alphabet. But for his action they would probably have been destroyed by the Turks who were using the Parthenon for target practice. Salvage costs alone, after a shipwreck, came to £74,000 but the earl turned the marbles over to the British Museum for £35,000. His son was Governor General of what was then Canada and a grandson was born in Montreal.



Something To Shoot At

The Poet's Corner

BIRTHRIGHT Lord Rameses of Egypt sighed Because a summer evening passed; And little Ariadne cried That summer fancy fell at last. To dust; and young Verona died When beauty's hour was overcast. Theirs was the bitterness we know Because the clouds of hawthorn keep So short a state, and kisses go To tombs unfathomably deep. While Rameses and Romeo And little Ariadne sleep. —John Drinkwater.

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I.

NEW STARCH FACTORY "The new starch factory built at Murray Harbour this summer for Messrs. Prosser & Sons is now completed and in operation. One most noteworthy improvement and deserving of special mention is the double-washer, which gives the potatoes an extra cleaning and thereby produces a more superior quality of starch than by the single washer. The factory reflects credit on the energetic contractors, Messrs. McKinnon & McLean, Charlottetown; most of the machinery is their own make and of the very best. The mill has a capacity of grinding over 2000 bushels of potatoes per day, and thus affords when operated an unfailing home market for all the surplus potatoes of that section of the country. The site also is worthy of mention, being built on the old mill site of John Cowan, Esq., less than a mile from shipping and quite convenient for all parties concerned. —The Presbyterian, Nov. 27, 1884.

The Age Old Story

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that whilst we are absent from the Lord.

Fearsome Relic

(Printed Word) The mother of the family being away, the 13-year-old daughter cheerfully undertook to prepare lunch (tin of soup, cheese and lettuce sandwiches) for herself and younger brother. Father purchased bread, etc., and left for the office with mixed feelings of pride at his sprout's efficiency and sorrow at the rate his little girl was approaching womanhood. About noon came a fearful voice on the telephone. The bread was "all stuck together"; what was she to do? Father, who should have known better, had bought unsliced bread and life had not prepared the young chatelaine to deal with so fearsome a relic of a bygone age. Assurances that there was nothing wrong with the bread and the rallying around of the younger brother with his Scout hunting knife solved the particular problem but left father with some long, long thoughts. His only consolation lies in the story told by a neighbor who reproved his thirteen-year-old for wearing her hair like a mop. "Daddy, what's a mop?" she asked.

Sieur de Maisonneuve, founder and first governor of Montreal, died in obscurity in France in 1676.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer A NEW CHAMPION The Union of South Africa used to be noted for its diamonds; perhaps it still is for all I know, but since Dr. Malan arrived on the scene with his provocative views on race and colour and a few other things we haven't been hearing so much about the diamonds. From now on, if reports coming out of Pretoria are verified, Dr. Malan will have to take a back seat so far as news is concerned. His place as news wonder No. 1 has been taken for the time being at least, by a bullfrog by the name of Leaping Lena. (It seems a little strange to talk about a female "bull" frog, but apparently there is such a creature.) At a recent exhibition jump, so far as the National Geographic Society reports, Leaping Lena broke the world's record by spanning 32 feet. This is almost twice the distance covered by a frog named Maggie (a Californian) who set the record many years ago by springing 16 feet 4 inches, three times in a row. Until now, with the appearance of Leaping Lena, that record stood, despite all efforts to break it by professionals from all over the world.

Needless to say, the herpetologists (a pedantic name for specialists in the habits of reptiles, from the Greek word meaning "to creep") especially those of the American variety, are all aflutter over this sensational news from South Africa. They have plenty to do, goodness knows, with all the reptiles that are at large in the world, but some of them are already on the way to Pretoria to make acquaintance with Leaping Lena and to see what special equipment she has that Maggie hasn't got. (Up to this moment there has been no word from Moscow; but any day now we shall hear that Soviet frogs can outjump and outswim any of the species Rana Catesbeiana in the United States, South Africa, or any other capitalist and bourgeois country. In fact, it wouldn't be surprising to learn that a 100 yard jump for a Marxist frog is commonplace, not worth mentioning among the exploits of Soviet citizens.) All claims and prospective claims aside, it is interesting and a little humbling to note that when it comes to the broad jump man is a mere amateur in comparison with the slowest frog. The best that any man has ever done—publicly, a any date—was 26 feet, 8 1/4 inches, credited to Jesse Owens—also an American—in 1935. That's a little more than four times his length. The average frog, who has had no training of any kind, can jump 12 times its length any day; at all, Maggie's feet was 60 times her length and the new champion has just about doubled that.

Even the kangaroo, which makes no pretension to athletic prowess, can beat the fastest man without making any special effort; its average jump is 5 times its own length. The best jumper of them all, of course, is the common flea which with a head wind can spring 200 times its length, and much farther than that when the wind is in its favour. However, the flea is so far down the social scale nowadays that no one would ever think of entering it in a world championship contest, although in other and less enlightened days flea hopping was considered a thrilling and fashionable sport. More than one man has made a fortune in the flea business. Unfortunately, although the flea was once popular as a jumper, its bad habits otherwise kept it from making any very distinguished friend. The frog, on the other hand, always has been considered a good fellow as well as a good athlete and he has had many friends in high places. Mark Twain, a notable if ever there was one, thought so much about the frog and his athletic talents and abilities that he wrote a best seller called "The Jumping Frog." No one, as far as I know, ever wrote a book called "The Jumping Flea"; which, in a way, is a pity. If an artist is entitled to be judged by his art and not by his personal habits, why shouldn't a flea be given the same consideration?

It may be true, philosophically, that "man is the measure of all things" (personally, I think it is only half true but certainly other forms of life have outsmarted him in many ways. For instance, an ant in its prime is estimated to be a thousand times stronger than the strongest man, weight for weight. Anyone can verify that by watching one at work, carrying loads many times its own weight. No engineer, however brilliant, has the technological ability to build a web which a self-respecting spider would even think of renting. The hornet's nest has been studied in laboratories for years; so far the hornet has defied the best architects and builders to reproduce one. One man thought he had learned the secret some years ago; however, when he put his fancy creation out of doors it fell apart at the seams. On the other hand, of course, there are many things which man can do and which other living things can not. It is known that frogs, fleas, ants, spiders, and all the others have been warring amongst themselves for thousands of years just as human beings have been in the habit of doing. But, thus far, although certain classes have died out, it seems that none has devised a way to exterminate its own race in a matter of minutes. Man alone, or so it is believed, has discovered that secret, and there is no assurance at the moment that he won't make use of it.

HARD TO DEMOLISH VANCOUVER (CP)—It will cost Vancouver citizens \$390,000 to get rid of the old Granville street bridge. That's the cost of wrecking the structure, opened in 1909, which has been replaced by a modern \$16,500,000 high-level structure.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

When a man commits the perfect crime he usually feels an urge to brag about it, which promptly makes it imperfect. —Edmonton Journal. Our language is a baffling one for the foreigner. As, for instance, "de luxe"—which can mean more chrome or a pickle, depending on whether it's applied to a car or a hamburger.—Hamilton Spectator.

Any day now, somebody's going to complain that all the campaigning against juvenile delinquency is driving the small independent marijuana-grower to the wall. —Hamilton Spectator. The shocking tragedy at Lake of Two Mountains, said to be the worst in Canada in the past ten years, will serve as a grim reminder that water can be not only a valuable friend but also a dangerous enemy. But it is a matter for infinite regret that it should require the sacrifice of twelve children's lives to emphasize again a fact that should be known to all—that in or on water mistakes and inexperience can be deadly dangerous, to the point that they frequently leave no second chance. —Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

Hay fever sufferers would be well advised to spend their holidays in any of Ontario's fine vacation areas where the air is free of practically free of irritant pollens. Northern Ontario is about the best area where they can be assured of breathing without discomfort and, besides affording such relief, it is one of the world's foremost holiday and sportsman's paradises. In mid-southern Ontario, many areas, notably Algonquin Park and the Muskoka Lakes district are nearly as satisfactory as far as pollen incidence is concerned.—North Bay Nugget. On a general farm with a small poultry flock to provide eggs, broilers, fryers and roasters, as well as the makings for an occasional fricassee with plenty of thyme-flavored dumplings, a rooster one or two years old can become obstreperous and ugly. Many farm wives feel safer with a stout stick in their hands when they go to pick up eggs. One of the traits of the vast majority of aggressive roosters is to start exuberant crowing at dawn's early light. There are some perspicacious citizens who still believe that it is wise to arise at 5 a.m. in the summer, although they indulge themselves in winter until six. However a rooster doesn't wait for 5 a.m. these July mornings; he starts sounding a raucous reveille at approximately four.—Ottawa Journal. Last year Toronto recorded 76 fatal traffic accidents, involving 76 drivers. Only 15 of these drivers faced prosecution, and only four convictions, all for dangerous driving, were obtained, although a fifth case is still to be dealt with. That is, only 6.6 percent of the drivers involved in these fatal accidents were found guilty of a traffic offence. In the four convictions obtained, in no case was the sentence more than six months in jail. Compared to the punishment meted out to those found guilty of robbery and other crimes involving property, it seems that we regard human life rather lightly if that life is destroyed by a motor vehicle.—Owen Sound Sun-Times. At a soda bar in a suburb of Winnipeg, a young man of 19 years lost his temper and slapped a 16-year-old girl. The girl required treatment from a doctor and the boy was taken to court on a charge of assault. In court the presiding magistrate is quoted as having said, "It's too bad somebody your own size didn't take a swipe at you and knock your bad temper out of you." One cannot blame the magistrate too much for expressing his indignation. But, of course, the magistrate was talking out of turn. Had someone else done what the magistrate suggested he too would have been in court on a charge of assault. —Fort William Times-Journal.

FRESHWATER SALMON The omaniche is a type of Atlantic salmon which spends its whole life in eastern freshwater lakes. GREAT LAWYER John Buckworth Parkin, who died at Quebec in 1875, was perhaps the most famous criminal lawyer of his time in Canada.

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